

Remark:

Claims 1, 3, 12 and 15 are objected to for using the phrases "m feet above" and "n feet above". The examiners suggested to change these phrases to "at a first distance above" and "at a second distance above". These suggestion are respectfully accepted. The applicant hereby expresses his most sincere thanks to the examiner for providing the constructive suggestions.

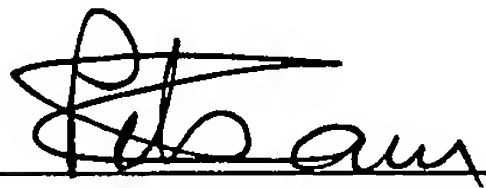
Claims 5, 6 and 9 are objected to for using the word "or". It is respectfully submitted that precedent court case had ruled that the word "or" is proper to be used in a claim. *In re Gaubert*, 524 F.2d 1222, 187 USPQ 664 (CCPA 1975). Please refer to MPEP 2173.05(h) section II for further reference. Accordingly the objection according to this ground is respectfully solicited to be withdrawn.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as the phrase "one of said supporting members is fixedly secured to said garment supporting apparatus". The examiner questioned how an element of an apparatus can be "secured" to the apparatus, when that element is already "part" of that apparatus. Under this view, an element of an apparatus is considered to be assembled to said apparatus; and every elements recited in the claimed apparatus are therefore considered to be assembled together to form said apparatus. Accordingly the recitation of this phrase therefore causes confusion to the other components. The redundant portions of the subject claims are now deleted to overcome the confusion arisen.

Claims 1, 2 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as the phrase "the components" of said garment supporting apparatus lacks antecedent basis. Since said garment supporting apparatus is already considered to comprise said components, the recitation of "the components" are deleted to overcome the ground of rejection without changing scope of the subject claims.

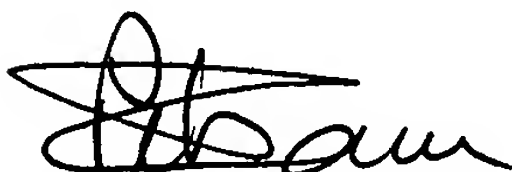
As a conclusion, all the recommendations provided by the examiner are respectfully accepted and the subject claims are properly amended to overcome the grounds of objection and rejection. Allowance of the subject application is respectfully solicited. In case there is any other ground of rejection found, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to propose broadest allowable claim or specification amendment to the application pursuant to MPEP 707.07(j) for the application to be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelop addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 22, 2005.



Peter Ar-Fu Lam